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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 47/53 D, adopted without a vote on 9 December 1992, the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the Secretary-General for his efforts in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament and in carrying out an active seminar and conference programme. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during 1993 and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for 1994. In addition, the Assembly decided that the World Disarmament Campaign would be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. Section II provides the background to the Disarmament Information Programme as well as the framework within which activities are being conceived and carried out. Section III outlines specific activities carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as by the Department of Public Information since October 1992. Section IV deals with financial aspects of the Programme.

3. As regards activities envisaged for 1994, it should be noted that fewer elements of the Programme will be implemented than in previous years. Some will be temporarily suspended in order to ease the severe pressure currently placed upon the resources of the United Nations, including those allocated to the Office for Disarmament Affairs. This temporary suspension pertains in particular to those projects which are financed from extrabudgetary resources, such as conferences and meetings, since their implementation places demands on the staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, which cannot be met in present circumstances. The Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme to the General Assembly in 1994 will contain further information in this connection.

4. The present report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/48/...).

II. BACKGROUND

5. The important function of disseminating information regarding arms limitation, disarmament and international security, which had been recognized by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament, in 1978, was formalized within the framework of a programme known as the World Disarmament Campaign initiated by the Assembly at its second special session on disarmament, in 1982. The programme aimed at informing, educating and generating public understanding and support for multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, and focused on five major constituencies:

elected representatives, research institutes, educational communities, non-governmental organizations and the media.

6. The programme has adapted to the extraordinary changes in international affairs that have occurred over the past five years. While retaining the same fundamental goals and basic structure, it has broadened considerably its scope, addressing a wide range of issues that the new political climate has given rise to, and, at the same time, developing means of exploring specific questions in depth. A growing willingness on the part of Governments to discuss old and new problems in a constructive and non-confrontational manner has resulted in greater support for United Nations disarmament information activities. This was evidenced, at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, by the agreement to rename the information programme, as noted in section I, and an increase in pledges to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (see sect. IV below).

7. Within the framework of its mandate, and across the spectrum of its activities, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has given increasing attention to the most urgent issues of global concern in the field, such as the question of non-proliferation in all its aspects, as well as to the ways and means of promoting regional approaches to disarmament and confidence-building measures, including greater openness and transparency in military matters.

8. During the reporting period, the activities of the programme have been carried out within the traditional four areas: regional activities, information and education activities, training activities, and special events. In addition, the Department of Public Information, in accordance with its own mandate as well as in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, has continued to implement a number of activities in support of the work of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN 1993 AND PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Regional activities

9. As stated above, the pursuit of regional solutions to regional problems is being actively encouraged by the international community. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is promoting this approach either through the Regional Centres or in cooperation with individual Governments through the organization of regional conferences, meetings and seminars to facilitate an exchange of ideas and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors, and between governmental and other experts. During the reporting period, four such meetings were convened in cooperation with individual Governments and with the assistance of other institutions, as described below. (For details concerning the regional meetings convened by the Regional Centres, refer to the report of the Secretary-General on the Regional Centres (A/48/...).)

Symposium on Transparency in Armaments: The Mediterranean Region, Florence, Italy, 29 March-1 April 1993

10. The Symposium was organized in cooperation with the Forum on the Problems of Peace and War, and the support of the Government of Italy and the City of Florence, which also provided extrabudgetary resources for this meeting. The aim of the Symposium was to explore the concepts of openness and transparency as they apply to the pursuit of peace, security and disarmament, in particular in the Mediterranean region.

Conference on Disarmament Issues, Kyoto, Japan, 13-16 April 1993

11. The Conference, the third one in a series held at Kyoto on disarmament issues, was organized in cooperation with the Government of Japan and the Prefecture and City of Kyoto. It was financed from extrabudgetary resources contributed to the United Nations by the Government of Japan and earmarked for this purpose. The principal aim of the Conference was to review trends in the area of national security in the post-cold-war era and to study the challenges to disarmament in an increasingly interdependent world.

Symposium on Regional Approaches to Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, Graz, Austria, 2-4 June 1993

12. The Symposium was organized in cooperation with the Government of Austria and the City of Graz and financed from extrabudgetary resources contributed to the United Nations by the Government of Austria and earmarked for this purpose. The aim of the Symposium was to examine the main challenges that confront States in implementing confidence-building concepts and the evolution of confidence-building methodology in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe.

Symposium on Security, Disarmament and Confidence-Building in the CIS Context, Kiev, 27-30 September 1993

13. The Symposium was organized in cooperation with the Government of Ukraine and with the financial support of several other Governments and institutions. Its purpose was to clarify the security concerns of various member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the light of ongoing political and strategic developments in the region and to explore ways in which States and international organizations outside the Commonwealth of Independent States could assist the newly independent States in promoting stability and cooperation in specific areas of concern.

14. A proposal to host similar meetings in 1994 has been made by Japan.

B. Information and education activities

15. Information and education activities include the preparation and dissemination of a variety of publications, intended mainly for professionals and non-governmental organizations active in the field, as well as direct interaction with non-governmental organizations, mass media and research and academic institutions.

16. The main publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs is the reference book The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, which covers the deliberations of the disarmament machinery of the United Nations, namely the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission, the work of the multilateral negotiating body - the Conference on Disarmament - developments in various regions, and negotiations between the Russian Federation and the United States of America; its supplement, Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, is a compilation of the texts of relevant treaties, and data on their status with respect to adherence. The quarterly periodic review Disarmament, Topical Papers, the Study Series and the Disarmament Newsletter present material on specific issues. Special attention has been given to issuing the publications in a timely manner, and to addressing the areas of growing concern to Member States, noted in the preceding section. The Office has increasingly drawn upon the academic and research communities for articles for the periodic review and for papers at regional conferences, which are later published as Topical Papers.

17. During the period under review, the Office issued and distributed the following publications:

(a) The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 17 (1992);

(b) Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, 4th edition, 2 vols.;

(c) Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations (four issues);

(d) Disarmament Study Series (one issue);

(e) Topical Papers (five issues);

(f) Disarmament Newsletter (four issues).

18. In the forthcoming months and in 1994, the Office for Disarmament Affairs will continue to disseminate disarmament information materials. It will, however, scale down its publications programme, giving priority to the Yearbook and the Disarmament periodical.

19. During the period under review, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued its involvement in a joint project with the International Association of University Presidents to develop prototype courses in arms control, disarmament and security for use at the undergraduate level and in professional schools worldwide. In addition to developing courses that take into account the new realities of international security, efforts were made to promote the project through a presentation on arms control education to a group of university presidents from 50 States and through a seminar for experts from developing countries.

20. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to carry out speaking engagements for groups visiting the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. Some of those groups included members of parliament and elected representatives from Member States, religious groups, university, college and secondary-level students, educators and representatives of national and international

non-governmental organizations. Staff continued to attend and participate in events organized by non-governmental organizations and to be available for lectures at various universities.

C. Training activities

21. Training for young diplomats within the framework of the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme involves some 30 fellows drawn mainly from developing countries. The programme, which lasts 12 weeks, comprises a series of lectures and attendance at meetings of the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee of the General Assembly, and visits to various host countries. Lectures during 1993 dealt with such topics as regional approaches to disarmament, non-proliferation, transparency, international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, and non-military threats to security. Further information on the activities of this programme is provided in the relevant report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at the current session (A/48/...).

22. Training is also provided to graduate students through the internship programme of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. This activity is organized in cooperation with the United Nations ad hoc internship programme to introduce graduate students to the work of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. Students are given on-the-job training and the opportunity to follow deliberations of disarmament bodies at Headquarters such as the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission. During the period under review, the Office provided such training to 10 graduate students from different geographical regions.

23. A similar internship programme is sponsored by the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with the Information Service at Geneva, allowing graduate students to familiarize themselves with the activities of the Conference on Disarmament.

D. Special events

24. Disarmament Week (week beginning 24 October) was commemorated in 1992, as in past years, with events at Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva. In New York, Disarmament Week was observed by the First Committee at its 18th meeting, on 27 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.18), at which statements were made by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, who introduced his report entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold war era" (A/C.1/47/7), and the Chairman of the First Committee.

25. During the Week, a forum devoted to the subject of the chemical weapons Convention was held. The forum was organized by the NGO Committee on Disarmament in New York and co-sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information. The following experts participated as its panelists (speakers): Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia, Mr. Julio Fiol of Chile, Ambassador Adolf Ritter von Wagner of Germany,

Mr. Hassan Mashhadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ambassador Stephen Ledogar of the United States.

26. In connection with the Week, the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs mounted a display of international legal instruments relating to disarmament and United Nations publications on disarmament. The Branch also participated in a meeting of the Special NGO Committee on Disarmament (Geneva), which devoted a large part of its discussions to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An agenda for peace" (A/47/277-S/24111).

27. Similar events and activities are envisaged for Disarmament Week 1993.

28. During Disarmament Week, many United Nations information centres issued special backgrounders for radio, television and press services, organized exhibits, and cooperated with local non-governmental organizations in planning and organizing special observances. A 15-minute radio documentary entitled "Disarmament and Peace" was produced by the Department of Public Information in English and French.

E. Activities of the Department of Public Information

29. Over the past year, the Department of Public Information has continued to support the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. Information products have focused on the need to curb the spread of weapons of mass destruction, to achieve further progress in conventional disarmament and to develop an international regime for monitoring the transfer of arms.

30. The Department has produced radio and video programmes on various aspects of disarmament and related issues for worldwide dissemination in official and non-official languages. The Radio Service devoted several programmes to such subjects as disarmament after the cold war, the chemical weapons Convention, promoting transparency in international arms transfers, and a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Video productions, which were widely disseminated, included editions of UN in Action/CNN World Report dealing with conversion and with chemical weapons.

31. A wide range of activities has been carried out both at Headquarters and through the network of Information Centres and services. Activities include guided tours at Headquarters, lectures, press conferences, seminars, meetings and screening or the loan of Department of Public Information films on disarmament. The Department produced a press kit (DPI/1314) on the Secretary-General's report on new dimensions of disarmament, noted above. Documents and other information materials on disarmament were on display at the Information Fair, held at Headquarters in October, and seen by 18,238 visitors. During the reporting period, the Public Inquiries Unit responded to more than 600 requests for disarmament materials and information.

32. The Information Centres, through their newsletters, special events and lectures, have drawn attention to the work of the United Nations in disarmament, in particular during Disarmament Week. In addition, they have provided press

coverage and media support for workshops and seminars organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

33. The Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, plans to issue informational leaflets on such subjects as the chemical weapons Convention and the arms register and to organize a number of events in connection with Disarmament Week 1993.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

34. Voluntary contributions remain the primary source of financing for the Office's activities to implement the Programme. On 30 October 1992, the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/37 A of 6 December 1991, convened the Tenth United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign as an opportunity for Member States to provide financial support to the various activities of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

35. The Conference was attended by 72 delegations, 24 of which made statements. Although there was a significant increase from last year in the pledges to the Campaign, pledges to the Regional Centres remained meagre.

36. At the Conference, 21 States announced their pledges, all in convertible currency. In addition, written pledges were received from three Member States. A total of $276,765 was pledged to the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

37. Pledges were also made to the Regional Centres as follows: $114,375 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (of which $79,579 was earmarked for the Seminar on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Southern Africa held at Windhoek); $482,376 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (of which $450,000 was earmarked for the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues held at Kyoto, Japan); and $92,081 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (of which $72,581 was earmarked for the Seminar on Arms Proliferation and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Latin America held at Asuncion, Paraguay). A total of $573,027 was pledged to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

38. In addition to the pledges made at the Pledging Conference, contributions were made by Member States to the Trust Fund up to 30 June 1993 amounting to $88,336 (see also A/CONF.161/2).

39. Arrangements are being made to hold an eleventh Pledging Conference, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/53 D. It will be convened by the Secretary-General during Disarmament Week 1993.

40. For the implementation of the July 1992 to June 1993 programme of activities, the Trust Fund was charged $140,996 in convertible currency and $20,869 in non-convertible currency. The available balance (excluding unpaid pledges) that remained in the Trust Fund as at 30 June 1993 amounted to $268,891

in convertible and $13,265 in non-convertible currencies (at official rates as at 30 June 1993).

41. Any remaining funds will be used for the implementation of the proposed 1994 programme of activities. Use of non-convertible resources remaining in the Trust Fund will be determined in consultation with donor countries at a later stage.

ANNEX

Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (formerly the Trust Fund for the World Disarmament Campaign): summary status as at 30 June 1993

(United States dollars)

	Convertible	Non-convertible	Total
I. Income			
1982-June 1992			
Pledges by Member States	1 752 658	4 421 811	6 174 469
Contributions by private sources	161 121	-	161 121
Interest income	237 172	2 377	239 549
Subtotal	2 150 951	4 424 188	6 575 139
July 1992-June 1993			
Pledges by Member States	403 314	626	403 940
Contributions by private sources	25 000	-	25 000
Interest income	4 294	1 145	5 439
Miscellaneous income	4 501	-	4 501
Subtotal	437 109	1 771	438 880
Total income (1982-1993)	2 588 060	4 425 959	7 014 019
II. Expenditure			
1982-1992	1 719 770	2 623 084	4 342 854
July 1992-June 1993	140 189	3 940	144 129
Total expenditure (1982-1993)	1 859 959	2 627 024	4 486 983

	Convertible	Non-convertible	Total
III. Status as at 30 June 1993			
(a) Pledges and contributions			
Total pledges and contributions (1982-1993)	2 588 060	4 425 959	7 014 019
Less: Deposited pledges/ contributions	2 270 569	3 020 742	5 291 311
Less: Net loss on exchange on pledges	9 557	1 403 339	1 412 896
Outstanding pledges	307 934	1 878	309 812
(b) Deposited pledges and contributions	2 270 569	3 020 742	5 291 311
Less: Loss on exchange on cash balance	141 719	380 453	522 172
Less: Total expenditure	1 859 959	2 627 024	4 486 983
Balance excluding unpaid pledges 30 June 1993	268 891	13 265	282 156